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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 16

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC,
RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Russian Federation: draft resolution

1998/... Situation of human rights in Latvia

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Expressing its concern at the outstanding problems of the vast majority of the population of non-Latvian origin permanently residing in Latvia that give rise to violations of human rights of individuals belonging to national minorities,

Concerned about the continuing slow rate of naturalization of permanent residents belonging to national minorities and the low numbers of applications for citizenship,

Expressing its particular concern at the incident in Riga on 3 March 1998, accompanied by acts of violent suppression of peaceful expression of views,

1. Calls upon the Government of Latvia to intensify its efforts at resolving concerns pertaining to national minorities;

2. Urges the Government of Latvia to simplify radically the process of naturalization and urges it in particular to grant citizenship to all children born in Latvia;

3. Encourages the Government of Latvia to continue its efforts to implement the comprehensive Latvian language training programme aimed at strengthening the capacity to teach the Russian-speaking population;

4. Calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to keep a dialogue with the Government of Latvia in order to obtain substantial progress in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all residents, irrespective of their origin, and to inform the Commission thereon;

5. Calls upon the Government of Latvia to implement all the recommendations of international missions and mechanisms concerning the improvement of the human rights situation in Latvia;

6. Decides to consider this matter at its fifty-fifth session.